

NATIONAL RECORDER.

containing Essays upon subjects connected with Political Economy, Science, Literature, &c.; Papers read before the Agricultural Society of Philadelphia; a Record of passing Events; Selections from Foreign Magazines, &c. &c.

PUBLISHED, EVERY SATURDAY, BY LITTELL & HENRY, 74 S. SECOND STREET, AT FIVE DOLLARS PER ANN.

VOL. IV. Philadelphia, November 18, 1820. No. 21.

THE AMERICAN CHARACTER.

We are most confident that a want of attachment to our country is not among our faults, and yet we often have a sensation of dislike, amounting sometimes to disgust, at the incessant defence of the American character. After some little examination, we believe we have discovered, that this feeling arises from a confidence, that there is something in the nation that will always make it respected, without any vindication on our part. Somebody, probably Mr. Jefferson, said, that every year of our existence would serve instead of volumes of refutation of foreign aspersions. The slanders against our national character, have almost always proceeded from persons who were beneath our contempt, and even when they were echoed from the reviews, were unworthy of the general indignation they excited. Why should the false opinions that may for a little while be entertained of us by some foreigners, be able so much to disturb us? They cannot in the slightest degree affect our prosperity or happiness. If they were believed, they would for a little while diminish the effect of the example of a government instituted solely for the good of the people. But the truth cannot be long concealed, and we shall soon be known as we are, without any trouble on our part.

"What will Mrs. Grundy say?" is the constant exclamation of some of our *ultra-patriots*. If any abuse in our governments or any striking instance of depravity is pointed out, there is an immediate reference to the opinions that foreigners will have of it, and it is often said that it is better to hush up any disgraceful matter as quietly as we can. We find in private life, no men deserving respect, who are not confident of obtaining it by their deserts, without any elaborate defence or anxious puffing; and there is, so far as we can see, no reason why, in pursuance of the same principles, we should not leave our national character to support itself. Our great champion, Mr. Walsh, has done

enough for our cause, but every youngster that can write must join in the defence against our literary enemies.

The immediate occasion of these remarks is furnished by the approaching publication of the *Philadelphia Medical Journal*. In the prospectus of the work it was stated, that it would enter in a considerable degree into its plan to vindicate the American character from foreign aggression. The motto chosen for it, is an extract from the 65th No. of the Edinburgh Review: "In the four quarters of the globe, who reads an American book? or goes to an American play? or looks at an American picture or statue? what does the world yet owe to American Physicians or Surgeons?"

We cannot but think it giving undue importance to this silly effusion, to take so much notice of it in a work dignified by the names of Physick, Chapman, Patterson and the other eminent men who have contributed to the first number.

REVOLUTION AT HAYTI.

We are as yet unable to present to our readers any distinct account of the revolution at Hayti. It appears that some of the emperor's troops had revolted, and a proclamation of president Boyer calls upon the remainder of the nation to follow their example. It was said that king Henry had been decapitated, or had committed suicide; but it is not certain that he is not alive.

In the mean time, we will take advantage of this uncertainty, to speculate a little upon futurity. Should it be true that Henry is dead, Boyer will probably succeed in consolidating the whole population into one nation. This would at once work an essential change in their politics. Hitherto their strength has been wasted in continual contests among themselves, that have retarded their increase of wealth and left them neither leisure nor inclination to look abroad. When they find themselves strong enough to commence hostilities with a probable chance of success, it is likely that

and Africa, will soon contain descendants from her, many times more numerous than the parent stock. The blessings of liberty and refinement will be extended to vast continents from "a little island in the North Sea."

Record.

THE MESSAGE

Of the President of the United States, to both Houses, at the opening of the Second Session of the Sixteenth Congress.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives:

In communicating to you a just view of public affairs, at the commencement of your present labours, I do it with great satisfaction; because, taking all circumstances into consideration which claim attention, I see much cause to rejoice in the felicity of our situation. In making this remark, I do not wish to be understood to imply that an unvaried prosperity is to be seen in every interest of this great community. In the progress of a nation inhabiting a territory of such vast extent and great variety of climate, every portion of which is engaged in foreign commerce, and liable to be affected, in some degree, by the changes which occur in the condition and regulations of foreign countries, it would be strange if the produce of our soil and the industry and enterprise of our fellow citizens received at all times, and in every quarter, an uniform and equal encouragement. This would be more than we have a right to expect, under circumstances the most favourable.—Pressures on certain interests, it is admitted, have been felt; but allowing to these their greatest extent, they detract but little from the force of the remark already made. In forming a just estimate of our present situation, it is proper to look at the whole—in the outline, as well as in the detail. A free, virtuous, and enlightened people know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends; and even those who suffer most, occasionally, in their transitory concerns, find great relief under their sufferings, from the blessings which they otherwise enjoy, and in the consoling and animating hope which they administer. From whence do these pressures come? Not from a government which is founded by, administered for, and supported by, the people. We trace them to the peculiar character of the epoch in which we live, and to the extraordinary occurrences which have signalized it. The convulsions with which several of the powers of Europe have been shaken, and the long and destructive wars in which all were engaged, with their sudden transition to a state of peace, presenting, in the first instance, unusual encouragement to our commerce, and withdrawing it in the second, even within its wonted limit, could not fail to be sensibly felt here. The station too, which we had to support through this long conflict, compelled, as we were, finally to become a party to it with a principal power, and to make great exertions, suffer heavy losses, and to contract considerable

debts, disturbing the ordinary course of affairs, by augmenting to a vast amount, the circulating medium, and thereby elevating, at one time, the price of every article above a just standard, and depressing it at another below it, had likewise its due effect.

It is manifest, that the pressures of which we complain have proceeded, in a great measure, from these causes. When, then we take into view the prosperous and happy condition of our country, in all the great circumstances which constitute the felicity of a nation—every individual in the full enjoyment of all his rights, the union blessed with plenty, and rapidly rising to greatness, under a national government, which operates with complete effect in every part, without being felt in any, except by the ample protection which it affords, and under state governments which perform their equal share, according to a wise distribution of power between them, in promoting the public happiness—it is impossible to behold so gratifying, so glorious a spectacle, without being penetrated with the most profound and grateful acknowledgments to the Supreme Author of all good for such manifold and inestimable blessings. Deeply impressed with these sentiments, I cannot regard the pressures to which I have adverted otherwise than in the light of mild and instructive admonitions! warning us of dangers to be shunned in future; teaching us lessons of economy, corresponding with the simplicity and purity of our institutions, and best adapted to their support; evincing the connexion and dependence which the various parts of our happy union have on each other, thereby augmenting daily our social incorporation, and adding by its strong ties, new strength and vigour to the political; opening a wider range, and with new encouragement to the industry and enterprise of our fellow citizens at home and abroad; and more especially by the multiplied proofs which it has accumulated of the great perfection of our most excellent system of government, the powerful instrument, in the hands of an all-merciful Creator, in securing to us these blessings.

Happy as our situation is, it does not exempt us from solicitude and care for the future. On the contrary, as the blessings which we enjoy are great, proportionably great should be our vigilance, zeal and activity to preserve them. Foreign wars may again expose us to new wrongs, which would impose on us new duties, for which we ought to be prepared. The state of Europe is unsettled, and how long peace may be preserved, is altogether uncertain; in addition to which, we have interests of our own to adjust, which will require particular attention. A correct view of our relations with each power, will enable you to form a just idea of existing difficulties, and of the measures of precaution best adapted to them.

Respecting our relations with Spain, nothing explicit can now be communicated. On the adjournment of Congress, in May last, the minister plenipotentiary of the United States at Madrid, was instructed to inform the government of Spain, that if his Catholic Majesty should then ratify the treaty, this government would accept the ratification, so far as to submit to the decision of the Senate the question whether such ratification should be received in exchange for

that of the United States, heretofore given. By letters from the minister of the United States to the secretary of state, it appears, that a communication, in conformity with his instructions, had been made to the government of Spain, and that the Cortes had the subject under consideration. The result of the deliberations of that body, which is daily expected, will be made known to Congress as soon as it is received. The friendly sentiment which was expressed on the part of the United States, in the message of the 9th of May last, is still entertained for Spain. Among the causes of regret, however, which are inseparable from the delay attending this transaction, it is proper to state, that satisfactory information has been received that measures have been recently adopted by designing persons, to convert certain parts of the province of East Florida into depots for the reception of foreign goods, from whence to smuggle them into the United States. By opening a port within the limits of Florida, immediately on our boundary, where there was no settlement, the object could not be misunderstood. An early accommodation of differences will, it is hoped, prevent all such fraudulent and pernicious practices, and place the relations of the two countries on a very amicable and permanent basis.

The commercial relations between the United States and the British colonies in the West Indies, and on this continent, have undergone no change; the British government still preferring to leave that commerce under the restriction heretofore imposed on it, on each side. It is satisfactory to recollect, that the restraints resorted to by the United States were defensive only, intended to prevent a monopoly under British regulations, in favour of Great Britain; as it likewise is to know that the experiment is advancing in a spirit of amity between the parties.

The question depending between the United States and Great Britain, respecting the construction of the first article of the treaty of Ghent, has been referred, by both governments, to the decision of the emperor of Russia, who has accepted the umpirage.

An attempt has been made with the government of France, to regulate by treaty the commerce between the two countries, on the principles of reciprocity and equality. By the last communication, from the minister plenipotentiary of the United States at Paris, to whom full power had been given, we learn that the negotiation had been commenced there, but serious difficulties having occurred, the French government had resolved to transfer it to the United States, for which purpose the minister plenipotentiary of France had been ordered to repair to this city, and whose arrival might soon be expected. It is hoped that this important interest may be arranged on just conditions, and in a manner equally satisfactory to both parties. It is submitted to Congress to decide, until such arrangement is made, how far it may be proper, on the principle of the act of the last session, which augmented the tonnage duty on French vessels to adopt other measures for carrying more completely into effect the policy of that act.

The act referred to which imposed new tonnage on French vessels, having been in force

from and after the 1st day of July, it has happened that several vessels of that nation which had been despatched from France before its existence was known, have entered the ports of the United States and been subject to its operation, without that previous notice which the general spirit of our laws gives to individuals in similar cases. The object of that law having been merely to countervail the inequalities which existed to the disadvantage of the United States, in their commercial intercourse with France, it is submitted also to the consideration of Congress, whether, in the spirit of amity and conciliation, which it is no less the inclination than the policy of the United States to preserve in their intercourse with other powers, it may not be proper to extend relief to the individuals interested in those cases, by exempting from the operation of the law all those vessels which have entered our ports without having had the means of previously knowing the existence of the additional duty.

The contest between Spain and the colonies, according to the most authentic information, is maintained by the latter, with improved success. The unfortunate divisions which were known to exist some time since at Buenos Ayres, it is understood still prevail. In no part of South America has Spain made any impression on the colonies, while in many parts, and particularly in Venezuela and New Grenada, the colonies have gained strength and acquired reputation, both for the management of the war, in which they have been successful, and for the order of the internal administration. The late change in the government of Spain, by the re-establishment of the constitution of 1812, is an event which promises to be favourable to the revolution. Under the authority of the Cortes, the Congress of Angostura was invited to open a negotiation for the settlement of differences between the parties, to which it was replied, that they would willingly open the negotiation, provided the acknowledgment of their independence was made its basis, but not otherwise. Of further proceedings between them we are uninformed. No facts are known to this government, to warrant the belief, that any of the powers of Europe will take part in the contest; whence it may be inferred, considering all circumstances, which must have weight in producing the result, that an adjustment will finally take place, on the basis proposed by the colonies. To promote that result, by friendly counsels, with other powers, including Spain herself, has been the uniform policy of this government.

In looking to the internal concerns of our country, you will, I am persuaded, derive much satisfaction from a view of the several objects to which, in the discharge of your official duties, your attention will be drawn. Among these, none holds a more important place than the public revenue, from the direct operation of the power, by which it is raised, on the people, and by its influence in giving effect to every other power of the government. The revenue depends on the resources of the country, and the facility by which the amount required is raised, is a strong proof of the extent of the resources, and of the efficiency of the government. A few prominent facts will place this great interest in a just light before you. On the 30th of Septem-

ber, 1815, the funded and floating debt of the United States was estimated at one hundred and nineteen millions six hundred and thirty-five thousand five hundred and fifty-eight dollars. If to this sum be added the amount of five per cent. stock subscribed to the Bank of the United States, the amount of Mississippi stock, and of the stock which was issued subsequently to that date, the balances ascertained to be due to certain states, for military services, and to individuals, for supplies furnished, and services rendered, during the late war, the public debt may be estimated as amounting, at that date, and as afterwards liquidated, to one hundred and fifty-eight millions seven hundred and thirteen thousand forty-nine dollars. On the 30th of September, 1820, it amounted to ninety-one millions nine hundred and ninety-three thousand eight hundred and eighty-three dollars, having been reduced in that interval, by payments, sixty-six millions eight hundred and seventy-nine thousand one hundred and sixty-five dollars. During this term, the expenses of the government of the United States were likewise defrayed, in every branch of the civil, military, and naval establishments; the public edifices in this city have been rebuilt, with considerable additions; extensive fortifications have been commenced, and are in a train of execution; permanent arsenals and magazines have been erected in various parts of the union; our navy has been considerably augmented, and the ordnance, munitions of war, and stores, of the army and navy, which were much exhausted during the war, have been replenished.

By the discharge of so large a proportion of the public debt, and the execution of such extensive and important operations, in so short a time, a just estimate may be formed of the great extent of our national resources. The demonstration is the more complete and gratifying, when it is recollect that the direct tax and excise were repealed soon after the termination of the late war, and that the revenue applied to these purposes has been derived almost wholly from other sources.

The receipts into the treasury from every source, to the 30th of September last, have amounted to sixteen millions seven hundred and ninety-four thousand one hundred and seven dollars and sixty-six cents, whilst the public expenditures, to the same period, amounted to sixteen millions eight hundred and seventy-one thousand five hundred and thirty-four dollars and seventy-two cents: leaving in the treasury, on that day, a sum estimated at one million nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars. For the probable receipts of the following year, I refer you to the statement which will be transmitted from the treasury.

The sum of three millions of dollars, authorized to be raised by loan, by an act of the last session of Congress, has been obtained upon terms advantageous to the government, indicating not only an increased confidence in the faith of the nation, but the existence of a large amount of capital seeking that mode of investment, at a rate of interest not exceeding five per centum per annum.

It is proper to add, that there is now due to the treasury, for the sale of public lands, twenty-two millions nine hundred and ninety-six thou-

sand five hundred and forty-five dollars. In bringing this subject to view, I consider it my duty to submit to Congress, whether it may not be advisable to extend to the purchasers of these lands, in consideration of the unfavourable change which has occurred since the sales, a reasonable indulgence. It is known that the purchases were made when the price of every article had risen to its greatest height and that the instalments are becoming due at a period of great depression. It is presumed that some plan may be devised, by the wisdom of Congress, compatible with the public interest, which would afford great relief to these purchasers.

Considerable progress has been made, during the present season, in examining the coast and the various bays, and other inlets; in the collection of materials, and in the construction of fortifications for the defence of the union, at several of the positions at which it has been decided to erect such works. At Mobile Point and Dauphin island, and at the Rigolets, leading to Lake Ponchartrain, materials, to a considerable amount, have been collected, and all the necessary preparations made for the commencement of the works. At Old Point Comfort, at the mouth of James river, and at the Rip-Rap, on the opposite shore, in the Chesapeake bay, materials to a vast amount have been collected; and at the Old Point some progress has been made in the construction of the fortification, which is on a very extensive scale. The work at Fort Washington on this river, will be completed early in the next spring; and that on the Pea Patch, in the Delaware, in the course of the next season. Fort Diamond, at the Narrows, in the harbour of New York, will be finished this year.

The works at Boston, New York, Baltimore, Norfolk, Charleston, and Niagara, have been in part repaired; and the coast of North Carolina, extending south to Cape Fear, has been examined, as have likewise other parts of the coast eastward of Boston. Great exertions have been made to push forward these works with the utmost despatch possible; but when their extent is considered, with the important purposes for which they are intended, the defence of the whole coast, and, in consequence, of the whole interior, and that they are to last for ages, it will be manifest that a well digested plan, founded on military principles, connecting the whole together, combining security with economy, could not be prepared without repeated examinations of the most exposed and difficult parts, and that it would also take considerable time to collect the materials at the several points where they would be required.

From all the light that has been shed on this subject, I am satisfied that every favourable anticipation which has been formed of this great undertaking will be verified, and that, when completed, it will afford very great, if not complete, protection to our Atlantic frontier, in the event of another war—a protection sufficient to counterbalance, in a single campaign, with an enemy powerful at sea, the expense of all these works, without taking into the estimate the saving of the lives of so many of our citizens, the protection of our towns and other property, or the tendency of such works to prevent war.

Our military positions have been maintained at

Belle Point, on the Arkansas, at Council Bluff, on the Missouri, at St. Peter's, on the Mississippi, and at Green Bay, on the Upper Lakes. Commodious barracks have already been erected at most of these posts, with such works as were necessary for their defence. Progress has also been made in opening communications between them, and in raising supplies at each, for the support of the troops by their own labour--particularly those most remote.

With the Indians peace has been preserved, and a progress made in carrying into effect the act of Congress, making an appropriation for their civilization, with the prospect of favourable results. As connected equally with both these objects, our trade with those tribes is thought to merit the attention of Congress. In their original state, game is their sustenance, and war their occupation; and, if they find no employment from civilized powers, they destroy each other. Left to themselves, their extirpation is inevitable. By a judicious regulation of our trade with them, we supply their wants, administer to their comforts, and gradually, as the game retires, draw them to us.

By maintaining posts far in the interior, we acquire a more thorough and direct control over them; without which it is confidently believed that a complete change in their manners can never be accomplished. By such posts, aided by a proper regulation of our trade with them, and a judicious civil administration over them, to be provided for by law, we shall, it is presumed, be enabled not only to protect our own settlements from their savage incursions, and preserve peace among the several tribes, but accomplish also the great purpose of their civilization.

Considerable progress has also been made in the construction of ships of war, some of which have been launched in the course of the present year.

Our peace with the powers on the coast of Barbary has been preserved, but we owe it altogether to the presence of our squadron in the Mediterranean. It has been found equally necessary to employ some of our vessels, for the protection of our commerce in the Indian sea, the Pacific, and along the Atlantic coast. The interests which we have depending in those quarters, which have been much improved of late, are of great extent, and of high importance to the nation, as well as to the parties concerned, and will undoubtedly suffer, if such protection was not extended to them. In execution of the law of the last session, for the suppression of the slave trade, some of our public ships have also been employed on the coast of Africa, where several captures have already been made of vessels engaged in that disgraceful traffic.

JAMES MONROE.

Washington, Nov. 14, 1820.

We avail ourselves of the following abstract, by the Boston Evening Gazette, of governor Clinton's speech at the present session of the New York legislature.

"Governor Clinton met the two houses in convention, and delivered a speech which occupies about three columns of a newspaper. He

recommends an amendment to the constitution of the United States, which should abrogate the choice of electors by the state legislatures, and establish an uniform mode of filling that office. The legislature will be called upon also to elect a senator of the United States. He intimates the necessity of retrenchment in the state expenditures, and the diminution of costly establishments and unnecessary offices. He speaks of the dangers resulting to the state governments, from the officers of the general government attempting, as an organized and disciplined corps, to interfere in the state elections. He thinks there should be a convention for amending the constitution so as to vary the organization of the political power of the state, and prevent for the future the commotions which agitate the public mind.

"The governor then expatiates on the progress of the internal improvement. He says, 'upwards of 51 miles of the canal between the Genesee river and Montezuma, including 16 locks, are under contract, and the whole distance of sixty miles and a quarter, with 2 additional locks, can be easily completed by the first day of September next; 30 miles of the section east from Utica are also under contract, including 12 locks, and will be completed the next season. In the progress of these operations, rocks have been excavated at the Little Falls in seventy or eighty days, which it was originally supposed would have taken two years. The improvements in the Hudson river, and by canals, to the distance of 28 miles south from Fort Edward, will be effected the next season; and it is hoped that the remaining ten miles to Waterford, which will finish the whole operation of the inland navigation of the north, can also be accomplished within that period. There will then remain about 100 miles on the western, and about 68 on the eastern section, in order to realize our whole system of internal navigation.'

"He recommends the application of all the resources of the state to the completion of this great work.

"He suggests the propriety of establishing a Board of Agriculture, for superintending its general interests. He then touches on the expediency of lowering the rate of interest on money; on the propriety of statistical investigations during the taking of the census; of an hydraulic cement; and of a reward for the discovery of coal. The flourishing condition of the seminaries of education forms the next topic of remark, and we discover several interesting facts in relation thereto. There are 6000 common schools in that state, receiving an annual patronage from government of \$160,000, in which 300,000 children are taught. In 30 academies there are 22,218 students, of which number 688 only are studying Latin and Greek. In the three colleges of Columbia, Union, and Hamilton, there are 522 students, and 196 in two medical colleges. Large sums are appropriated to patronise these institutions. He recommends the education, at the public expense, of youth distinguished for moral and mental superiority.

"He proceeds to mention the militia in favourable terms, and though last, to discuss the important subject of the penitentiary system of punishment.

"He disapproves of the local organizations of the state prisons in New York, under which the substantial control of those establishments is invested in subordinate and improper agents. We are happy to observe the improvements suggested as to the plan of building the penitentiaries so as to consist of *solitary cells*. At Pittsburgh, in Pennsylvania, one is erected to contain 600 cells, each 8 feet by 8, which will not be so expensive as on the old plan. 'It will not be necessary to make it so strong; the prisoners will have no chance of forming conspiracies, and hence all escapes will be prevented. The expense of a military guard would be saved; the duration of punishment might be usefully abridged; and, above all, we might be certainly assured, if not of a reformation that will prevent, of a punishment that will deter, from the repetition of crimes.'

"On the whole, the speech is full of matter, and is praiseworthy for the principles it inculcates."

The legislature of Kentucky met on the 16th ult. and received a message from governor Adair. He speaks of the pressure in money transactions, now felt in the state, and appears to think it in the power of the legislature to relieve it, provided they can agree upon the means of doing it. The penitentiary establishment is recommended to the early attention of the legislature, as in consequence of the decayed state of the buildings, as well as because they were originally too small to allow of solitary confinement and convenient room for labour, their interposition is necessary. The funds of the state are sufficient for all necessary and some useful purposes, and it is therefore suggested for consideration, whether the present be not a favourable time to make valuable and lasting improvements. The navigation of the Ohio from Louisville to its mouth is considered of the first importance, and some remarks are made upon the propriety of completing one undertaking before another be commenced. The support of the university is strongly recommended, as besides its direct advantages, it will tend to place at the head of primary schools, teachers well qualified for their situations. The expense to the state of supporting lunatics, &c. is said to be considerable, and it is recommended that they be all placed at Lexington, for the benefit of the best medical advice.

The Rhode Island papers consider the election of James D'Wolf to the Senate of the United States as a disgrace to their state; Mr. D'Wolf having "amassed his princely fortune by the slave trade." This would hardly be believed, were it not confessed in a letter to the printer of a paper. He states, however, that he has been long out of the trade, though not so long as "Mr. —, and some other pious people." The printer has left out the name of the gentleman alluded to, who is, he says, a most estimable citizen. There is another curious thing in Mr. D'Wolf's letter. He says that in any moral question that may arise in Congress, on which his opinion shall differ from that of his constituents, he shall give up his own and

vote in conformity with theirs; but in any thing relating to their interest, should his opinion not agree with that of the people, he shall think it his duty to resign.

The cashier of the United States branch bank at Middleton (Con.) has been declared a defaulter to the amount of more than 50,000 dollars. He has not been so fortunate as some other spoliators, having been detected by the directors, and thrown into prison in New York. His sureties (for 50,000) have been prosecuted for the defalcation.

It is said that an extensive woollen manufactory in Kentucky has been leased to a company of manufacturers from England.

Population of Lexington, (Ky.)—White persons 3523, slaves 1641, free blacks 115; total 5279.

It is said by the Albany Statesman, that it has been agreed in caucus to remove Messrs. Clinton, Van Rensselaer and Holly, from the Board of Canal Commissioners, and that Messrs. Tompkins, Tibbits, and Strong of Ontario county, are to be appointed in their place.

In the New York assembly there are for the administration 54, against it 71.

Niles' Register states, "We learn that a particular account of the late tour of governor Cass, and the scientific gentlemen associated with him, will speedily be published. It is said that fifty points of latitude and a considerable number of longitude, have been ascertained, and that the collections in mineralogy, &c. are highly interesting."

Nantucket contains a population of 6,992 white, and 274 coloured persons. Of the whites, 2,731 are under 16 years of age. The females are probably more numerous than the males, but their numbers are not stated. Supposing them to be equal, it appears that of 2,130 females on the island, over 16 years of age, 399 were widows—nearly one in five of the whole.

[Niles' Reg.

SAVANNAH.

The following extract presents a most deplorable picture of the calamitous visitation experienced by the city of Savannah during the last three months. We hope, however, as no new cases of the dreadful disease have been reported, that the hand of death is stayed. [Norf. Her.

Extract of a Letter from a Clergyman in Savannah (Geo.) to Dr. Hall, of Norfolk.

My Dear Sir—You request of me "a circumstantial account" of the affliction of this city during the present fall—this I could not give in the compass of a letter; but I will briefly state to you what may give some idea of the unparalleled sufferings of our people. It was not later than about the 20th of July, that the yellow fever began its ravages. For some time the disease was confined within very narrow limits; and its

subjects were (almost without exception) either strangers or persons of irregular habits*—These circumstances tended not a little to allay the fears of the citizens generally; and those who thought proper to leave their homes, were, (with some exceptions,) content with only removing to a more healthful part of the city. Through the month of August the disease became gradually extended over a great part of the city; but still was most prevalent in the neighbourhood where it originated; it was becoming too, more indiscriminate. Citizens, as well as strangers, and persons of the most correct manner of life, as well as the irregular, were occasionally found amongst its victims. With the increase of disease, and the knowledge of these circumstances of its progress, the alarm of our people increased.

We buried in August, 119,† and I think, our population may have decreased 1000, by removals from the city. Early in September, the unopposing character of the disease became notorious. It now fully appeared, that no character nor circumstances could give exemption from the fatal distemper. Old and young, temperate and intemperate, persons in every part of the city, and those who had been all their lives here, as well as non-residents, were increasing in number, among the sick, and dying, and the dead. No imagination will exceed the alarm, that prevailed in the city. Panic struck at the unprecedented calamity we were suffering, and anticipating from the then fearful mortality, the most awful history that was to follow, no one seemed to have a care, but to save his life, and the lives of those about him. To flee the seat of death, was generally regarded to be the way to escape, and by the 15th or 20th of the month, more than three-fourths of our entire white population had fled the city. Among them, two physicians—one of whom was an old residenter, and practitioner here. By, or before, the first of October, our city was so deserted, as not to contain a greater (reputed) population, than 1000—but notwithstanding this, almost total, abandonment of the city, the daily number of deaths never decreased; we buried 230, during the month of September; and of the 1000 who remained, 140 were buried within the first 16 days of October. The disease has not yet disappeared; but within the last 5 or 6 days, I have not known any new cases.

Among the dead are 7 or 8 physicians: doctors Berrien, Cutter, Colton, Warren, White, Kreeger, and a French physician, whose name I know not, and a gentleman whose name was Furth, of whom I am not certain whether he was a practitioner, or a student of physic. Three times, if not oftener, the same hearse has carried the husband and wife together, to be buried. Once, the husband, wife and children were all interred together. I have seen the father and his son, lying dead together. I called to console an amiable lady, who had the day before, buried her excellent mother—I found her

sitting at the head of her husband's corpse!—That husband was Dr. Berrien, an able physician and an amiable man—the friend of many friends, and an honour to our city. But I need not particularize—my heart is weary with the sickening recollection. Alas, what have I not seen; I have been at the bedside of scarcely a less number than two hundred, who were dying of yellow fever, in its worst form. Wo upon wo, has filled almost all our houses, and entirely all our hearts.

But O, amazing goodness! I have walked through the fire, and it has not burnt me! myself, my wife, my children, my servants—are all alive; and all have been in health, until now! may not this have been done by the protecting hand of God, that those may not be discouraged, who should be sent after me, to the church, in this “valley of the shadow of death?” I remain your affectionate younger brother. W. C.

P. S.—The sexton has just obligingly called, and given me the official return, of the number of interments, from the 1st to the 23d October, inclusive (*i. e.*) 188. What a proportion, to be taken in 23 days, out of a less number than 1000. The whole number from the 1st of August, to the 23d October, 537, and to these you may add 20, for the last week in July. I doubt if this was ever equalled, in any part of the United States. W. C.

Poetry.

PORTUGUESE HYMN.

TO THE VIRGIN MARY, “THE STAR OF THE SEA.”

Written at sea, on board the ship Santo Antonio,

Star of the wide and pathless sea!

Who lov'st on mariners to shine,
These votive garments wet, to thee,

We hang within thy holy shrine.

When o'er us flash'd the surging brine,
Amid the waving waters tost,

We called no other name but thine,
And hop'd when other hope was lost.

Ave Maris Stella!

Star of the vast and howling main!

When dark and lone is all the sky,
And mountain-waves o'er ocean's plain

Erect their stormy heads on high,

When virgins for their true-loves sigh,
They raise their weeping eyes to thee;

The star of ocean heeds their cry,
And saves the foundering bark at sea.

Ave Maris Stella!

Star of the dark and stormy sea!

When wrecking tempests round us rave,
Thy gentle virgin-form we see

Bright rising o'er the hoary wave,

The howling storms that seem'd to crave
Their victims, sink in music sweet;

The surging seas recede to pave
The path beneath thy glistening feet.

Ave Maris Stella!

Star of the desert waters wild,

Who pitying hear'st the seaman's cry!

The God of mercy as a child

On that chaste bosom loves to lie;

While soft the chorus of the sky

* The disease being confined to a small part of the city was regarded as a proof that it originated in some local cause, which it was hoped would be ascertained and removed.

† When I give you numbers, and when I speak of the population, the whites only are intended.

Their hymns of tender mercy sing,
And angel voices name on high
The mother of the heavenly king.
Ave Maris Stella!

Star of the deep! at that blest name
The waves sleep silent round the keel,
The tempests wild their fury tame,
That made the deep's foundations reel;
The soft celestial accents steal
So soothing through the realms of wo,
The newly damn'd a respite feel
From torture in the depths below.
Ave Maris Stella!

Star of the mild and placid seas!
Whom rainbow rays of mercy crown,
Whose name thy faithful Portuguese,
O'er all that to the depths go down,
With hymns of grateful transport own,
When clouds obscure all other light,
And heaven assumes an awful frown,
The star of ocean glitters bright.
Ave Maris Stella!

Star of the deep! when angel lyres
To hymn thy holy name essay,
In vain a mortal harp aspires
To mingle in the mighty lay;
Mother of God! one living ray
Of hope our grateful bosoms fires—
When storms and tempests pass away,
To join the bright immortal choirs.
Ave Maris Stella!

FOR THE NATIONAL RECORDER.

THE PASSION.

By W. B. Tappan.

'Tis midnight; and on Olive's brow
The star is dimm'd that lately shone;
'Tis midnight; in the garden now,
The suffering Saviour weeps alone.

'Tis midnight; and from all remov'd,
Immanuel wrestles, lone, with fears;
E'en the disciple that he lov'd,
Heeds not his Master's grief and tears.

'Tis midnight; and for other's guilt
The Man of sorrows weeps in blood;
Yet he that hath in anguish knelt,
Is not forsaken by his God.

'Tis midnight; and from ether plains,
Is borne the song that angels know;
Unheard by mortals are the strains
That sweetly sooth the Saviour's wo.

Miscellany.

THE OBJECT OF EDUCATION.

The circulation of the North American Review is so rapidly increasing, that it will soon be useless for us to make extracts from it. At present, however, our selec-

tions from and notices of the work, may be seen by many who do not see the original, and we shall therefore from time to time fill a page from it, with the double view of adding to the value of the Recorder, and making the Review better known. The following is from a review, in the last number, of Edgeworth's Memoirs.

Much improvement has been effected of late years in education, but much remains to be done. The great mistake in the systems in practice here, especially in female education, is, we think, this, that it is made much more an object to fill, than to strengthen the mind. The memory does more than its share of work; the pupil should have tasks to be learned by rote, but he should too be often urged to an active and vigorous exertion of the intellect generally. History, geography, perhaps languages, and the elements of some sciences are taught, and the pupil is thought to become sensible, just in proportion as he becomes knowing: while in fact no one faculty of the mind is profited by such a course of study, excepting the memory. All the things which are now learned should certainly be taught, but they should not be considered, either by learner or instructor, as chiefly good in and for themselves. It must be always remembered by the master, and, if possible, distinctly explained to, and strongly impressed upon the pupil, that facts are principally and indeed almost solely valuable, when they are made materials for thought. It is one thing to add to the stores of the intellect, and another to enlarge its resources. Not unfrequently have minds of ordinary strength been weakened and cramped by the unwieldy mass of knowledge heaped upon them. It is dangerous to a common mind to have authorities constantly at hand, leading-strings at every step; for the exercise of judgment is an effort which will not be made, unless there be a call for it, and the power of judgment, if left unemployed and inactive, will sleep and die. No matter how much learning be acquired, but more should be done by exercises in composition, or in some similar way, to methodize and turn to good account the knowledge which is gained; to enrich and chasten the imagination, to sharpen the judgment, invigorate the power of ratiocination, and give force and activity to the whole intellect. By the present system, or rather by that exclusively in use some years since, a sensible boy or girl might pass the most improving and important years of life at school, and be very industrious there,

and yet come home possessed of less intellectual power, than when they went—because, during the greatest part of that time, the imagination and the judgment, the power of combining ideas and of examining truths, so far from being assisted and cultivated, were not even suffered to have their natural growth, but were carefully repressed and kept in a state of forced inaction, lest the attention should be impeded in its endeavour to fasten facts upon the memory. And this may be one reason why a boy's success at school is a very unsafe criterion, by which to judge of his future intellectual rank; a strong mind will act—will put forth its power in some direction or other, and a child, who is gifted with an ardent imagination and an active mind, may find it far more difficult to direct and fix his attention upon an object which does not interest him, and to chain down his other faculties, than a boy who is really duller and weaker. If the object of education be general improvement, there can be no doubt which of these systems should be adopted, unless improvement means the palsying, rather than the strengthening of the mind, the accumulating, rather than the using of knowledge; and if its object be to increase our power of amusing, interesting, and influencing those about us, there can be as little question. So far as colloquial talent is a good thing, we all know what exceeding dull work it is to listen to a conversation made up of other men's shreds and patches, and how gladly we fly from one who talks truisms and sage remarks, which he can neither appreciate nor maintain, to intercourse with a mind which acts for itself in fearlessness and independence; which habitually forms its own opinions, and knows upon what grounds. Intellectual strength and intellectual wealth generally go together in some degree, for the strongest mind cannot act without materials, and none but a mind of some strength can make large acquisitions, but they are not identically the same thing, and but little experience in life is needed to teach, that force and activity of mind are far more efficient in giving their possessor eminence and power, than a mere abundance of knowledge. When Bacon said, 'knowledge is power,' he referred to its effect upon mankind at large, and it is true that scientific and philosophical knowledge have given man a mastery over the elements, and bowed to his bidding earth, sea, and air; but the maxim certainly will not bear a very close application to individuals.

Criticisms on the Modern Poets.

THOMAS MOORE, ESQ.

"Some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."

There are sometimes persons to be met with in life, whom the whole world seems to have conspired to treat with causeless and capricious indulgence, as if "mistaking the reverse of wrong for right;" they have imagined this would be an atonement for their hourly wrongs of insulted genius and neglected merit. Thus we often see, in an ill regulated and unhappy family, parents who are distinguished by their indiscriminate severity to their deserving offspring, fling the whole weight of their fondness into the scale of demerit and ingratitude, and like Titania, become "enamoured of an ass,"—and their folly becomes at once their punishment and their degradation. When the world is thus determined, it is incredible with what punctuality it fulfils the conditions of this compact—how it praises and patronises its adopted favourite—how it exaggerates all its merits, goes bail for all its offences, as if there were no merits but what its praise must sanction, and no offences but what its protection must justify; let a being so favoured and so flattered be guilty of every irregularity—let him have insulted decency, profaned religion, trampled on social order, and traduced constituted authorities, society still hugs him to her bosom, and whispers in a palliating tone, that it is Alcibiades defacing the images of the gods; doubtless the apology is sufficient—but not to me. The "Enfant gâté," whether of domestic or literary life, deserves sore and severe chastisement, and he shall have it, "whether he will bear, or whether he will forbear;" let it be remembered too, that the Enfant gâté, whether in the nursery or in life, always betrays the same tendencies, the same petulance, premature restlessness, and disgusting frowardness. He is always the "vaulting ambition that o'erleaps itself, and falls on t'other side." His too is the "tetchy and wayward infancy," that fights with the breast that feeds him; that "crams and blasphemous the feeder"—or, to drop the language of metaphor, such a being can at once borrow his subsistence from the powers he vilifies—accuse the atmosphere he lives in for the breath it lends him—and insult the laws for the protection they afford him for abusing them. Yet this shall be a being flattered and caressed, noticed by nobles, and adored by women of rank and fashion.

He shall pass like a meteor from England to Ireland, shedding a brilliant, ominous, and pestilential glare on both countries, and our literary astronomers shall apply their telescopes, and call this newly discovered planet—MOORE.

From what the eminence of Moore has risen it would be rather difficult for candid criticism to discover. He is best described by negatives. He is *not* a man of *superlative* poetical powers: lord Byron is far beyond him in all the true essence of genius, in all the constituent and elementary parts of a genuine poet. He is *not* a man of profound research and erudition. He is no explorer of the untravelled deserts of the soul; not a man who can drop his line of investigation further than ever did “plummet sound,” and bring it up tinged with the proof of his startling and profound discoveries. Wordsworth, and even Wilson, and *the school of lakers*, with all the distortion of their affectation, all their lisping and babyish mawkishness, all the sickening and yet insulting arrogance of their egotism, know more of human concerns and the human heart than Moore does, however they disguise and abuse the knowledge they possess. He is *not* a man of acute and deep observation in human life; a man skilled in detecting and tracing the changes that the mind undergoes from the modifications of society, the vicissitudes of manners and opinions, and from the topographical influence of local residence and incidental proximity to objects different from what it is usually familiar with. Scott and Hogg, and even Southey, know infinitely more, and have infinitely more the power of painting freshly and vividly the changes of the mind as caused by what may be called the various *dispensations of manners*, often as powerful as the dispensations of religion in producing an exterior revolution in the aspect of society.

There is nothing in the writings—there is nothing in the mind of Moore, that can furnish the brilliant and chivalric paintings of Scott (for Scott is a painter more than a poet); nothing that can furnish the strong national characterism—the wild picturesque, and yet vital, delineation of the untamed ferocity of the mountain chiefs, the lifeless austerity, the super-human abstraction, the *αβιωτος βιος*, (mixed with the wildest enthusiasm of military glory, and the implacable obstinacy of Judaical pertinacity, singularly and inharmoniously blended with the language, not the spirit, of the gospel) in his representation of the cove-

nanders—nothing that can, in fact, give us the wild, and yet awful, picture of a nation in masquerade, *all disguised*, yet *all known*, the fantastic spirit of some presiding demon in the garb of religion, arraying all in their appropriate costume, dictating to all their creed of blasphemy and nonsense, like the devil Milinax, in the Duke of Guise, prompting them with their parts when they fail, and finally, disrobing them of their borrowed vestments at the hour of their departure, and whispering to them the fallacy of their pretensions, and the awful reality of their despair. Such are the powerful pictures that the great writer we allude to has drawn of periods more interesting as they become more obscure from the interruptions of time, the incuriosity of contemporaries, and the infidelities of tradition.

In what, then, is Moore eminent? Not in the naked and gigantic sublimity of absolute genius; not in the piercing and profound anatomy of the human heart; not in the keen, various, and amusive display of the anomalies of human life; not in the strong and thrilling personification of human passion; not in the salutary and heart-touching impression of one mighty moral. He has fluttered “about and about” Parnassus, sending to us occasionally music from the breezes he inhales, and colours from the flower he visits: but every breeze brings withering on its wings, and every flower in its fragrance reminds one of the blossoms of the Upas tree: it is all infection and death—*death, not mortal only*. In adverting to the poetry of Moore, I am forced to undertake a painful task; it is horrible to excruciate morbid impurity by the touch, that, in order to heal, must first feel, expose, and exasperate the seat where the venom is lodged; but it is necessary.

Of a poet in *our days* much is demanded, and much must be paid. Thank God, we have done with the times when the first writers in Britain were obliged to saturate a royal mistress with fulsome praise more prostituted (if possible) than her person, and to beg their “leave to toil” of a wretch who sometimes sold it in the wantonness of regal prostitution, sometimes in the venality of regal rapacity, and sometimes in the comparatively innocent intoxication of the vanity of her feelings or her profession. The prefaces and the prologues of Dryden, and Lee, and Otway, bear melancholy attestations to this truth; they were forced to flatter for bread; they “crouched like hounds beneath the lash”—and a bitter lash it was: but *they* had at least the ex-

use of the impostor's wife in Henry the Sixth :

Alack, sir,
We did it all for pure need.

Dependent as they were on the smiles of a courtesan (and through her on the favour of a witty, but voluptuous monarch, alternately the degraded pensioner of Louis XIV. and the slave of the wretched French prostitutes, purchased and sent over for the empoisonment of his political principles, the degradation of his character, and the abject enthralment of all his energies, intellectual and moral) they may perhaps be forgiven. Prostituted genius was their crime; but want was their apology.

Has Moore such an apology? No: he had no need to bow the head before voluptuousness, or flatter royal mistresses. His errors are of his own seeking. His vice is his own choice. He is criminal, not from the necessity, but the love of crime. What shall we say of the man who, without any claims from personal necessity (such as it must be feared far more distinguished minds, and far better hearts, have proved and suffered,) turns *volunteer in the cause of impurity*, who blasphemous decency without the pretext of a bribe from necessity, and, reversing the accusation of satan, "serves the Devil for nought." Such has been Moore from his youth: his earliest efforts resembled a kind of premature dance round a Priapus. The loathsome obscenity and wild contortions of his motions were forgiven or overlooked. We all fondly hoped that a phoenix would arise from the impure and fetid ashes of Tom Little; that, to borrow the language of Buchanan,* the child who had "perfected the praise of the infamous phallic idol in the procession of Juggernaut," might yet become a convert to Christianity, and renounce the vile and impure idolatries of his infancy.

Has this been the case?—I must with revolting hand and pen track him through his course of unrepudiated indecency—unqualified jacobinism; and, I dread to add, unrepented infidelity. Of the two former, the most ample proofs are to be found in his writings; the last must be referred to his conscience; and first of the first, I hesitate not to say, that Moore is a writer whose impurity is the most wilful, deliberate, and persevering, that ever insulted heaven, and contaminated society.

* Vide the worship of Juggernaut, as described by Buchanan himself.

The maxim of the ancient orator, that action—action—action, was the soul of oratory, appears to have been translated by Moore, construing the essence of poetry into lust—lust—lust. I can find nothing else in his writings. I have read them all. How much he owes me for reading them; how much more may he owe me for distinguishing him as he deserves—as the high priest, not even of the *Venus semireducta*, but of the "dark veiled" Cotyutto—of the *Venus γενετυλλις*. If want of decency is want of sense, what shall we think of the man who insults both by going out of his way in the restless search after obscenity, who can publish such lines as these:

Thus in our looks *some propagation lies,*
For we *make babies* in each other's eyes.

Who can insult the Deity in his wrath, and his creatures amid the terrors that the visible display of that wrath excites, even amid the *brute creation*, and deify lust in the lines that follow:

Loud howled the wind in the ruins above,
And murmured the warnings of time o'er our head.*

While *fearless we offered devotions to love,*
The rude rock our pillow, the rushes our bed.

* * * * *

I shudder to trace the rest—

Dread was the lightning, and horrid its glare,
But it showed me my Julia in languid delight.

Of the Julia (whoever she was) and her lover, we have only to regret that the lightning spared two such monsters to insult the atmosphere they breathed and polluted with their protracted existence.

Take another specimen. Moore is not satisfied with the copious resources of his own imagination—fertile in inexhaustible impurity—he flies to the "integros fontes," to the French writers. He "pumps for life the putrid well of death." He disdains not to translate into English the vilest sillinesses of French epigrams; for example:

Your mother says, my little Venus,
There's something not correct between us,
And you're as much in fault as I;
Now, on my soul, my little Venus,
It would not be correct between us,
To let your mother tell a lie.

The poetry of this morceau is as contemptible as its sentiment is disgusting; one might exclaim with Hector M'Intyre, in the *Antiquary*, "I vow I have not heard

* Bad grammar is not seldom combined with the outrages of blasphemy.—Vide *Paine, passim*.

a worse halfpenny ballad;" yet thus low can Moore descend to the worship of obscenity; others kneel, but he submits to grovel. Endowed at least with a rich and brilliant imagination, with a power of painting all that is bright and beautiful in *physical* creation, all that is splendid and voluptuous in mortal existence, with a felicitous fluency of versification—"unimitated and unimitable"—with a power of deluging the ear and soul with an inebriating torrent of melody; with all this, Moore, if I may dare to borrow the application, is willing to "count all things lost" if he "may win" the demon of impurity, "and be found in him;" as he doubtless will one day, however he may deride the creed that whispers the prediction. I am weary of this vile research; it is like the loathsome labour of Celia's lover in Swift. I have only to add, that neither time or conscience have arrested the hand, or smitten the heart of Moore. He sings on his song of voluptuousness without any "mitigation or remorse of voice." The "floating brothel," as Voltaire called the Island of Love in the Lusiad of Camoens, is a nunnery, a temple of vestals, contrasted with the seraglio scenes so vividly painted in the "Veiled Prophet;" it is a fountain of the nymphs, compared with the loose, luxurious, and triumphant tide of debauchery that overwhelms every page of the description of the "Feast of Roses."

I pass on to the next charge—that of jacobinism. I hate the cant of politics. I neither understand nor speak it. By jacobinism I mean in general a wanton and wilful defiance of constituted authority on earth, combined (as it always is) with a defiance of that power from which all mortal power is derived; an insulting disregard of "the powers that be;" BECAUSE "those powers are ordained of God," a refusal alike to render unto Cæsar those things that are Cæsar's, or to God the things that are God's: if I were required to find in the writings of Moore the proofs of this spirit, I must answer in the words of the old Calvinistic Scotch woman, who, when asked by an Arminian divine, where she found her favourite doctrine of predestination in the Bible, answered "*in every page of it.*" When jacobinical rancour is combined with popish virulence, the union produces the most deadly compound of human malignity. Power, however constituted, or however existing, becomes the objects of its unmitigated and immitigable hostility.

The rulers of the people must be slandered and vilified, not because they are vicious or weak, despotic or lax, but because

they are our rulers. Moore can descend to the vapid vulgarities of the "Twopenny Post-bag," and the "Fudge Family," sooner than not "speak evil of dignities." He abuses the regent of England for *neglecting his wife*—he abuses the king of Prussia for *being too fond of his wife*:—all incongruities must embrace, all contradictions must agree, provided he can *abuse a sovereign*; that is the grand point, and to that, consistency, principle, feeling, truth, every thing, must be sacrificed; and the true jacobin says, like lord Richly, in Fielding's old play, "let them go, egad."

Persons in power must be abused, that is the first article of the jacobinic creed; *they are the loftiest flowers of the garden, they must be cropped first.* Mr. Moore, who assumes to be a classical scholar, (as a translator of Anacreon,) must understand the allusion. Johnson laughed at Waller's hope of establishing his claim to immortality on "verses addressed to a lady who could sleep when she pleased:" and "verses addressed to a lady who could do any thing but sleep when she pleased:" but Waller was a rhyming trifler, without intellectual eminence, or any pretension to poetical distinction, except what might be derived from the evanescent glories of his tributes to a Sacharissa and an Amoret. But what shall we say of the man who, possessed of powers that might in their legitimate use encounter half the writers of the day, and deem their defeat but a "puny battle," rests his claim to immortality on a satire against *stays, wigs, and whiskers*; and imagines that fame may be obtained by a disgusting expiation on trifles that would disgrace the tattle of a provoked chambermaid, the malice of a discarded governante, or the ribaldry of a disgraced porter.

This man has risen by satire; but what is his satire? That which the object may be proud of. He grasps at the straws on the surface; he spurns the pearls he has not the courage to dive for. I have but two pictures more of Moore to present, and then I have done with him. I have seen him (any one may see him) seated at the piano, surrounded by simpering matrons, some unconscious, some but *too conscious*, of the meaning of his warblings; rank after rank of beautiful unmarried females trembling on the verge of impurity, as they crowded and *blushed* around their favourite minstrel. I have seen him at *his state dinner* in Ireland, surrounded by the shouting O'Donnells and O'Connells, and all the endless O's of Irish genealogy, pledging his soul to them in rosy libations of wine for

his *patriotism, and proving it by his determined irrevocable absenteeism*; blessed pledge, such as the Irish, when flattered into popularity by English readers and English booksellers, never fail to give their country. He expends not during his stay in that country, to which he professes his utter devotion, half the money his intoxicated countrymen lavish on him in one absurdly magnificent feast; half did I say, the Mendicity Society in Dublin would be rejoiced to receive the money one *individual briefless barrister* mortgages the *profits of a whole term for*, to purchase the honour of dining with Moore, whose only proof of patriotism is robbing the country he has deserted. I have done with him. What can contempt heap further on a man than to call him *what he is*:—a jacobin in politics, an *absentee patriot*, a reckless sensualist in poetry, a practical infidel in religion. “Such be thy gods, O Israel!”—wo, wo to those who bow before them.

The admirers of chess will very shortly be gratified by the appearance of a selection of 50 games from above 300, played by the celebrated automaton chess player during its late public exhibition, against various opponents, some of whom rank amongst the first players in England. Many of these games are admirably well contested. In all of them the automaton gave a pawn and the first move to his adversary, with nearly uninterrupted success; and the various and skilful combinations it displays, form a fine study for the amateur.

Agriculture.

A Discourse read before the Essex Agricultural Society, in Massachusetts, February 21, 1820; suggesting some improvements in the agriculture of the county. By Timothy Pickering, president of the society.

Gentlemen,

The secretary has put into my hands a vote of the society, requesting me “to make to it such communications as may in my opinion most conduce to the interest of agriculture.”

This was an unlooked-for request. I have myself much to learn from observing farmers, of longer experience, and whose attentions have been exclusively devoted to husbandry. Mine, since I became a farmer, have been diverted by other pursuits; so that at intervals only my thoughts have been turned to this subject.

No one doubts the importance of our profession: and the actual formation of our

society is a declaration that improvements in it are necessary. But the field of agriculture is of boundless extent; and though traversed for some thousands of years by the greater portion of the human race, yet by no one, nor by all combined, has a complete survey been accomplished. Every year, and every day, presents something new: and even of old things, the practices of ages, there still exist diversities of opinions. For instance, which is preferable, deep or shallow ploughing? Should manures be spread on the surface, or be buried by the plough? If the latter, at what depth, to produce the greatest effect, with the most lasting fertility? Should manure be applied in its rough, coarse and unfermented state, or, by keeping and repeated turnings, be more or less rotted? These are points which appear to me deeply to affect the interests of agriculture. On these therefore I will give you my opinion, enlightened by the observations of intelligent husbandmen. I will then advert to a few other topics which demand your attention; dwelling on one of them—root crops for the food of live stock—as lying at the foundation of an improved agriculture.

On Deep Ploughing and Manuring.

For myself, I entertain no doubt of the utility of deep ploughing; not at once, in our lands in general, but by an increase of two or three inches at every annual ploughing, until the earth be stirred and pulverised to the depth of ten or twelve inches. Indian corn, planted in such a mass of loosened earth, would not, I am persuaded, ever suffer by ordinary droughts. Like a sponge, it would absorb a vast quantity of rain water, and become a reservoir to supply the wants of that and of all other plants. Nothing is more common, in a dry summer, than the rolling of the leaves of corn; and that circumstance is often mentioned as an evidence of the severity of the drought. This rolling of the leaves of Indian corn, is the consequence, in part, of scant manuring, but still more of shallow ploughing. Few, perhaps, are aware of the depth to which the roots of plants will penetrate in a deeply loosened earth. A gentleman,* much inclined to agricultural inquiries and observations, informed me, near fifty years ago, that seeing some men digging a well, in a hollow place, planted with Indian corn, then at its full growth, he stopped to examine how far its roots had

* Peter Oliver, esq. then a judge of the superior court of Massachusetts.

descended; and he traced them to the depth of nine feet. The soil was an accumulation of rich earth which had run or been thrown into the hollow.

The seed of the common turnip, sown in warm weather, and on a soil sufficiently moist, I have known to vegetate in about eight-and-forty hours; and in only four or five days afterwards, I found the plants had sent down roots to the depth of four or five inches.

I have often noticed forest trees blown down by violent winds, whose roots, of the same species, were very differently formed. Such as had grown in grounds having a hard, impenetrable pan of clayey gravel, at the depth of twelve or eighteen inches from the surface, exhibited a flat mass of roots; while others, torn up from a deep loam, or loamy gravel, showed downward roots of several feet in length.

About five months ago, I received from England a pamphlet, written by one of the most distinguished agricultural writers in that country—Arthur Young. It was a lecture read, a few years before, to the British Board of Agriculture, of which Mr. Young was the secretary. Its title is, “On the Husbandry of three celebrated British Farmers, Messrs. Bakewell, Arbuthnot and Ducket,” all eminent for genius, enterprise, application, and long experience. It was to do honour to their memories, “and to bring to recollection the means by which those celebrated practitioners, in the first and most important of all arts, carried their agriculture to a perfection unknown before,” that the lecture was written and published. And this, Mr. Young observes, would be more peculiarly useful, because those men, “confining themselves to practice alone, had left no register of their own meritorious deeds.” I will present to you the substance of the information contained in this pamphlet, as in itself very important, and because the practice of Arbuthnot and Ducket has a direct bearing on the points I am now considering—*deep ploughing and manuring*.

“Mr. Ducket had sand, and sandy soils, alone, to deal with; but Arbuthnot’s land classed among those harsh, wet, tenacious loams which are usually called clay, and ought to be esteemed such, relative to every circumstance that attaches to difficulty and management.” Passing by what Mr. Young says of Arbuthnot’s draining operations, I content myself with mentioning the principle of that improvement: “Lay your land dry, whatever may be the method pursued, before you attempt any thing else.”

“In respect to tillage, Mr. Arbuthnot carried it to great perfection: He invented a swing plough for a pair of horses and the general depth of six inches, and a much larger one with wheels, for gaining the depth of twelve, and even of eighteen, for some peculiar crops, especially madder. Upon the advantages of deep ploughing he never had the least hesitation; but always declared that in all he had read or heard, he never met with one argument against the practice that had with him the smallest weight.”—“In the essential operation of ploughing, he considered one earth (that is, one ploughing) well timed, and of a right depth, as being much more efficacious than that repetition of tillage so common in every district.”*

A judicious rotation, or round of crops, has long been considered, in England, essential to good husbandry: and so it is by skilful farmers in our own country; particularly in the middle states, where clover, so highly important in the rotation, has, for more than thirty years, been rendered wonderfully productive, by the application of plaster of Paris. The most usual course in England has been (excepting on stiff clayey soils) first year turnips, manured and kept clean by hoeing; the second year barley, with clover seed; the third year the clover mown for hay; and its second crop, at wheat seed time, ploughed in, and, where necessary to fill the seams, the ground harrowed, the wheat sown, and then harrowed in. This is called “wheat upon a clover lay.” But by the long and frequent repetition of clover, (that is, once in *four* years) in their rotations, lands in England became (as they express it) “sick of clover;” and I have been informed that some lands in our middle states, long subjected to the like application of clover, exhibit like symptoms of disease or failure. But Mr. Arbuthnot introduced clover once in *three* years, without suffering by such more frequent repetition. “He attributed the failure of this plant to shallow and ill executed ploughing: the result (says Mr. Young) justified his opinion.”

(To be continued.)

* The repetition of tillage here reprobated, refers, I presume, to the numerous ploughings given by many English farmers, at that period, preparatory to the putting in of their crops; which the single, deep and “efficacious” ploughing of Arbuthnot rendered unnecessary. Were our ploughing for Indian corn and root crops alike *deep* and *efficacious*, *before planting*, shallow tillage (called horse-hoeing) with light ploughs, during their growth, would suffice.